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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kurt ERNE et al.

Group Art Unit: 3662

Application No.: 10/516,730

Examiner: L. RATCLIFFE

Filed: January 10, 2005

Docket No.: 121940

For: OPTICAL INCLINOMETER

APPLICANTS' SEPARATE RECORD OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the March 15, 2007 personal interview, Applicants provide a separate record of the personal interview. Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Ratcliffe to Applicants' representative during the personal interview.

During the personal interview, Applicants' representative traversed the rejections of claims 25-39, 41-43 and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ricklefs (DE 19854812); claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Knestel (U.S. Patent No. 5,781,286) in view of Ricklefs; and claims 45, 49 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ricklefs.

Applicants' representative explained that the camera of Ricklefs does not resolve the course of the interface as recited in independent claims 25. Applicants' representative directed Examiner Ratcliffe's attention to the second paragraph on page 7, which discloses that the camera only determines the center of gravity of the gas bubble 4, and that the camera will work equally well with a fuzzy image.

Examiner Ratcliffe agreed that it appears that the camera of Ricklefs fails to resolve the course of the interface as recited in independent claim 25.

In view of at least the foregoing and the March 7 Request for Reconsideration, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:TSS

Date: March 16, 2007

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